

(Translation)

Motion on
“Requesting the Government to provide support services
for men in Hong Kong”
moved by Hon WONG Kwok-hing
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 11 November 2009

Wording of the Motion

That, with the transformation of Hong Kong’s economic structure and the change in the concept of family, both men and women in Hong Kong are facing the same difficulties in matters such as finance, health, marriage and family role, etc; however, as there is no men’s policy in Hong Kong and due to the influence of traditional concepts, the quality and quantity of the social welfare and social services which are targeted at men’s needs have failed to meet the demand, and as a result, men facing difficulties are often afraid to seek assistance, do not know how to seek assistance or have nowhere to turn to for assistance; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) study the formulation of a men’s policy which is forward-looking, comprehensive and has continuity;
- (b) recognizing men as a social group in need of services, set up a Men’s Commission to specialize in studying, exploring and addressing men’s problems;
- (c) face up to the problem of employment difficulties encountered by men, strengthen efforts to develop job types other than those in the service industry, enhance employees retraining services which are specifically targeted at the employment difficulties faced by men, and encourage and facilitate men to get employment or start their own business;
- (d) support divorced men on all fronts to cope with difficulties arising from mental stress, housing problem and breakdown of relationships with their children, and set up crisis centres for men which have the functions of providing temporary accommodation and counseling services;
- (e) set up men’s specialist clinics modeled on gynaecological clinics, so as to provide treatment and health care services in respect of illnesses suffered by men only (such as prostatic disease) and provide health checks for men;
- (f) encourage men to consult professionals when they are troubled by family matters, set up a special hotline for men operated by trained personnel who understand men’s needs to answer calls for assistance or complaint calls, and promote the provision of courses on counselling for men in the community;

- (g) give focused attention to the problem of suicide among middle-aged men, and enhance support for men who are at high risk of committing suicide and inflicting injuries to themselves;
- (h) improve the implementation of divorced men's right of access to or joint custody of their children;
- (i) enhance support for fathers to meet their needs in parenting their children and balancing work and life pressure, facilitate the provision of support for families on various fronts, and promote the introduction of paid paternity leave and family leave, etc; and
- (j) promote in-depth study of the existing education system, with a view to enhancing its constructive effects on the development of both sexes and bringing about positive social impact.